

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 269, I was unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF REVEREND DOUGLAS JONES AT WELCOME MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Douglas Jones of Welcome Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac, Michigan, as the congregation and the broader community celebrate his Twenty-fifth Pastoral Anniversary.

Throughout his tenure as the spiritual leader of the congregation at Welcome, Reverend Jones has approached his responsibilities with thoughtfulness and resolve for all of his congregation's members. From the very beginning of his tenure in 1989, Reverend Jones has focused on his congregation's future and in one of his first acts, took steps that allowed the church members to pay off Welcome's mortgage within his first three years. He also been keenly focused on the needs of Welcome's younger members and has established a number of ministries centered on catering to their needs. Furthermore, he has given special attention to members of his congregation facing moments of crisis in their lives—creating ministries that assist members with health and family emergencies.

The results of Reverend Jones' dedication are witnessed in the spiritual prosperity of the congregation at Welcome, which has grown both in membership from several hundred to more than four thousand, and in the deepening connection of its members to their faith.

In addition to the remarkable impact Reverend Jones has made at Welcome, he has engaged in endeavors that have affected the entire Pontiac community. As the founder of the Greater Pontiac Community Coalition, Reverend Jones brought together stakeholders from across the different sectors of Pontiac to make positive changes in their community. Additionally, Reverend Jones is active in many other community organizations in Pontiac and beyond, including Pontiac Youth Assistance and Pontiac's Committee of 50, a gathering of community decision-makers that drives philanthropic efforts within the city. Reverend Jones' work also includes the establishment of a scholarship fund to help youth realize their dreams of higher education and programs that support youth during their primary education.

Because of Reverend Jones' leadership and endeavors at Welcome Missionary Baptist Church and within the Pontiac community, many residents have received support at critical moments in their lives and have seen the

bonds within their neighborhoods strengthened. I know the congregation at Welcome must be proud of all Pastor Jones' accomplishments over his twenty-five year tenure as their spiritual leader. I am grateful for Reverend Jones' friendship and his leadership on many issues of importance to the Pontiac community and the Greater Detroit region. I wish Reverend Jones, First Lady JoAnn and their family continued happiness and success as they continue to serve their neighbors in Pontiac and the Greater Detroit community.

HONORING DOMINIC CECERE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, competitive sports allow youth to test their skills, while learning the importance of fair play and good sportsmanship. Dominic Cecere has spent 50 years coaching baseball at Eastchester High School. His joy for teaching and love of the game has inspired generations of youth.

Current and former athletes say he inspired them to give the game their all, which shows in the school's winning streak. Thanks to Dom's leadership, the Eastchester Eagles have won 15 league titles, six sectional titles and a regional championship. He has also traveled with players to Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and Cuba.

A former rookie player for the New York Yankees, Dom also worked as a professional talent scout for the Cincinnati Reds, the Montreal Expos, and the Philadelphia Phillies.

Dom started coaching the Eastchester varsity baseball team in 1965. He was captain of the Varsity Baseball team at New York University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education. He later earned a degree in Administration and a Master of Science in Physical Education from the University of Bridgeport.

Westchester County has recognized him as their coach of the year eight times and the New York Daily News has named him "New Coach of the Year" twice. Dom has also been honored by the New York State Coaches' Associations Award and the National H.S. Coaches Associations.

Dom was inducted into the Westchester County Sports Hall of Fame in 2001, the Eastchester Hall of Fame in 2006, and now the New York State Baseball Hall of Fame.

A number of his former students have gone on to coach baseball too. They will be among those honoring Dom at the inaugural Dom Cecere tournament, which raises money for graduating seniors going to college.

I am pleased to honor Dominic Cecere for his contributions to Eastchester High School, as well as to America's great pastime. I am hopeful he will inspire another generation of young players.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LIFE-LONG IMPROVEMENTS IN FOOD AND EXERCISE (LIFE) ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reintroduce the Lifelong Improvements in Food and Exercise (LIFE) Act, authorizing a national initiative to attack a major health problem in the United States that cannot be remedied through the health care system alone. Increasing rates of overweight and obesity are now found in Americans of every age, race, and major demographic group, and threaten the health of Americans like no other single disease or condition. In fact, the key to eliminating many of the most serious health conditions is to reduce overweight and obesity. The bill would provide \$25 million to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a coordinated national effort to reverse increasingly sedentary lifestyles and diets that are high in fat and sugar.

Despite rising consciousness of this epidemic, from television shows like "The Biggest Loser" and "Extreme Weight Loss" to a steady stream of diet books, the United States has startling rates of obesity among adults and children. In 2010, the CDC National Center for Health Statistics indicated that, since 1980, the percentage of children who are overweight has more than doubled, and the percentage of adolescents has tripled. Today, the 13 million overweight children have an 80 percent chance of being overweight adults, with the health conditions that follow, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, and cancer. The CDC reports that Type 2 diabetes, considered an adult disease, is now widespread in children. The rising costs of the health care system, including insurance premiums, reflect the epidemic. The consequences for children will follow them throughout their lives if we do not act quickly and decisively. If we are serious about controlling health care costs, we must start where the most serious health conditions begin: overweight and obesity.

The bill seeks to provide the first national strategy to combat the epidemic by directing the CDC to: train health professionals to recognize the signs of obesity early and to educate people concerning healthy lifestyles, such as proper nutrition and regular exercise; conduct public education campaigns about how to recognize and address overweight and obesity; and develop intervention strategies to be used in everyday life, such as in the workplace and in community settings. The legislation is the minimum necessary to address our most important health crisis. Today, chronic diseases, many of which are caused or exacerbated by overweight and obesity, account for 70 percent of all deaths in the U.S. and 60 percent of U.S. health care costs. According to the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity, the cost of obesity in the U.S. was more than \$117 billion in 2000. The CDC has highlighted a study that estimates the annual cost to be \$147 billion. It is estimated that between 300,000 and 400,000 deaths per year are related to obesity.